

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-19. Cancelled

20. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a coated steel wire having a bright looking surface, said method comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a steel core;
- (b) coating said steel core with an intermediate coating layer, **wherein said intermediate coating is a metallic coating comprising at least one of a copper coating, a copper alloy coating, a zinc coating, a zinc alloy coating, a nickel coating, a nickel alloy coating, a tin coating and a tin alloy coating;**

- (c) drawing said coated steel core so that said intermediate coating obtains a bright looking surface;

- (d) obtaining a transparent thermoplastic polyester; **and**

- (e) further coating said steel core with a bright intermediate coating layer with said polyester, wherein said polyester is immediately disposed on said intermediate coating layer.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a coated steel wire having a bright looking surface, said method comprising the following steps:

- (a) providing a steel core;

- (b) coating said steel core with an intermediate coating layer, **wherein said intermediate coating is a metallic coating comprising at least one of a copper coating, a copper alloy coating, a zinc coating, a zinc alloy coating, a nickel coating, a nickel alloy coating, a tin coating and a tin alloy coating;**

- (c) drawing said coated steel core so that said intermediate coating obtains a bright looking surface;

- (d) obtaining a transparent thermoplastic polyester; **and**

(e) further coating said steel core with a bright intermediate coating layer with said polyester, wherein said polyester is immediately disposed on said intermediate coating layer; wherein the step of coating with said intermediate coating layer is done by a hot dip operation.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, said method further comprising the step of adding coloring agent to said polyester.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein said drawing step (c) is a wet drawing step.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein said further coating with a polyester is done by an extrusion process.

25.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A steel wire having a coating having a bright looking surface, comprising:

a drawn wire, said drawn wire including a steel core covered with an intermediate coating layer, said intermediate coating layer having a bright looking surface; and

a polyester coating immediately upon said intermediate coating, said polyester being transparent;

wherein said polyester is a thermoplastic polyester selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate and polyethylene naphthenate; and

wherein said intermediate coating is a coating comprising at least one of a copper-tin sulfate coating and a copper-sulfate coating.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a coated steel wire having a bright looking surface, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a steel core;
- (b) coating said steel core with an intermediate coating layer, **wherein said intermediate coating is a metallic coating comprising at least one of a copper coating, a copper alloy coating, a zinc coating, a zinc alloy coating, a nickel coating, a nickel alloy coating, a tin coating and a tin alloy coating;**
- (c) drawing said coated steel core to obtain a bright looking surface; and
- (d) immediately depositing on said intermediate coating layer a transparent polyester to coat said intermediate coating layer ~~of said steel core~~.

33. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a coated steel wire having a bright looking surface, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a steel core;
 - (b) coating said steel core with an intermediate coating layer, **wherein said intermediate coating is a metallic coating comprising at least one of a copper coating, a copper alloy coating, a zinc coating, a zinc alloy coating, a nickel coating, a nickel alloy coating, a tin coating and a tin alloy coating;**
 - (c) drawing said coated steel core to obtain a bright looking surface; and
 - (d) immediately depositing on said intermediate coating layer a transparent polyester to coat said intermediate coating layer ~~of said steel core~~;
- wherein the step of coating said steel core with said intermediate coating layer is performed by a hot dip operation.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said method further comprises adding coloring agent to said polyester.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein said bright looking surface is obtained by wet drawing.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein depositing the polyester is performed by an extrusion process.

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20,

further comprising, after completing at least one of steps (c) and (e), quantifying the degree of brightness based on at least one of the peripheral roughness of the steel wire and the L-value of the steel wire.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32, further comprising, after completing at least one of the actions (c) and (d), quantifying the degree of brightness based on at least one of the peripheral roughness of the steel wire and the L-value of the steel wire.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein said intermediate coating is a metallic coating consisting essentially of at least one of a copper coating, a copper alloy coating, a zinc coating, a zinc alloy coating, a nickel coating, a nickel alloy coating, a tin coating and a tin alloy coating.

42. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein said intermediate coating is a metallic coating consisting essentially of at least one of a copper coating, a copper alloy coating, a zinc coating, a zinc alloy coating, a nickel coating, a nickel alloy coating, a tin coating and a tin alloy coating.

43. (New) The steel wire of claim 31, wherein said intermediate coating is a coating consisting essentially of at least one of a copper-tin sulfate coating and a copper-sulfate coating.

44. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein said intermediate coating is a metallic coating consisting essentially of at least one of a copper coating, a copper alloy coating, a zinc coating, a zinc alloy coating, a nickel coating, a nickel alloy coating, a tin coating and a tin alloy coating.

45. (New) A method according to claim 33, wherein said intermediate coating is a metallic coating consisting essentially of at least one of a copper coating, a copper alloy

coating, a zinc coating, a zinc alloy coating, a nickel coating, a nickel alloy coating, a tin coating and a tin alloy coating.

46. (New) A method according to claim 20, wherein said intermediate coating layer is identifiably bright after coating said steel core with said polyester.

47. (New) A method according to claim 21, wherein the intermediate coating layer is identifiably bright after coating said steel core with said polyester.

48. (New) The steel wire of claim 31, wherein the intermediate coating layer has an identifiably bright looking surface with the polyester coating immediately upon said intermediate coating.